

GALLERIA CONTINUA

常 青 画 廊

SAN GIMIGNANO **BEIJING** LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA

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15 YEARS OF GALLERIA CONTINUA IN CHINA: TO BE CONTINUA

Ai Weiwei | Kader Attia | Daniel Buren | Loris Cecchini | Chen Zhen | Carlos Garaicoa | Antony Gormley | Carsten Höller | Anish Kapoor | Hans Op de Beeck | Giovanni Ozzola | Michelangelo Pistoletto | Pascale Marthine Tayou | Qiu Zhijie | Kan Xuan | Sun Yuan & Peng Yu | Zhuang Hui

Opening: May 22nd, 2020

Duration: August 30th, 2020

'For Mario, Maurizio and Lorenzo, culture is a meeting, it's about making our differences a source of creativity, of beauty, of union and of love.'

These values embodied by Galleria Continua through the universal language of art have recently been subjected to a tremendous ordeal worldwide. However, art is still here and so are all the beautiful artworks regrouped for the anniversary exhibition of the gallery inaugurated last year. Now is the time **to be Continua.**

Galleria Continua is a leading international contemporary art gallery which was founded in 1990 by three friends: Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo, in San Gimignano, Italy. Occupying a former cinema, Galleria Continua established itself and thrived in an entirely unexpected location, away from the big cities and the ultramodern urban

centers, in the town of San Gimignano, a place steeped in history. This choice of location provided scope for the development of new forms of dialogue between unexpected geographies: rural and industrial, local and global, art from the past and the art of today, famous artists and emerging ones. Galleria Continua was the first foreign gallery with an international program to open in Beijing, China in 2004, and in 2007 it launched a new site for large-scale creations – Les Moulins – in the Parisian countryside. In 2015 the gallery embarked on new paths, opening a space in La Habana, Cuba, devoted to cultural projects designed to overcome every frontier. In the course of thirty years Galleria Continua has created a strong identity, which remains faithful to a spirit of perpetual evolution and is committed to developing public interest in contemporary art.

Those values and the importance of friendship led Galleria Continua to be the first major foreign gallery to arrive in China thanks to a strong tie with friends: the artist Chen Zhen and his wife Xu Min. The gallery settled in a 1950s Bauhaus style building that had not yet been restored back then, in an area considered to be in the Beijing outskirts and now famously known as the 798 Art District.

In April 2004, Galleria Continua participated in the first contemporary art fair in Beijing before organizing the first foreign Art Project in November of the same year. Then in May 2005, Galleria Continua held its inaugural show featuring 16 artists from five continents. In 2007, the gallery presented the work of Anish Kapoor for the first time in China in the Beijing gallery space, on the occasion of his solo show "Ascension". Since then, the gallery continues to bring important artists from all over the world for the first time to China: Daniel Buren, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley, Kader Attia, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Chen Zhen, Etel Adnan, Berlinde de Bruyckere and many more.

As of today, the 798 Art District has become one of the most visited locations in China, along with the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. It is now firmly positioned as the country's place in the world where culture keeps growing, recently welcoming numerous other foreign artists, galleries and institutions to the region. After many months of lockdown and confinements all around the world to fight against the unexpected and invisible enemy named COVID-19, 798 is now ready to reopen the gates of art. And this is to be continua!

To celebrate the 15th year Anniversary of the Beijing life of Galleria Continua, a very unique exhibition that started last

October will continue until the end of summer, adding new interventions every month. The exhibition retraces the history of the gallery by bringing back the works of different artists who have been part of this story along with the major exhibitions that our space hosted for the first time here in China:

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The exhibition is now expanding by dedicating some of the spaces to three more projects. One will continue its monthly intervention by **Daniel Buren**, changing the color of his site-specific work around the perimeter of the gallery. Two more artists, Kader Attia and Hans op De Beeck will present a new video work every month.

For our May opening we will be showing '*La Tour Robespierre*' by **Kader Attia**; a work that shows what remains of a utopian era where architecture promised material and aesthetic comfort, so as to almost forget the difficulty of everyday life which we live. That of a greyness, of boredom, even of the depression that emerges from this repetition, which becomes clearer as one seems to climb into what is positioned in a sort of elevator.

The second video work is a short-movie by **Hans Op de Beeck** entitled '*The Thread*' departing from the metaphor of a Chinese proverb expressing how an invisible thread connects those destined to meet, despite the time, the place and the circumstances. The thread can be tightened or tangled, but will never be broken.